

IN THE CLAIMS

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward ends, comprising:

5 first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members, respectively; said first and second mounting brackets extending downwardly from said first and second frame members, respectively;

 a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

10 a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

15 first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting brackets, respectively;

 said rearward end of said first lower control arm being pivotally secured to said first axle support;

 said rearward end of said second lower control arm being pivotally secured to said second axle support;

20 an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

 first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

1 and a one-piece stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely
extending base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end
portions at opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

5 said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control arms,
respectively;

10 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control arms.

Claim 2 (Original): The structure of claim 1 wherein resilient bushings pivotally
connect said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly to said first and second axle
supports.

15 Claim 3 (Original): The structure of claim 1 wherein said first generally forwardly
extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said first
axle support, thence forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly
towards said first mounting bracket and wherein said second generally forwardly
20 extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said
second axle support, thence forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence
forwardly towards said second mounting bracket.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 8 (New): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward ends, comprising:

first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members, respectively;

a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting brackets, respectively;

said rearward end of said first lower control rod being pivotally secured to said first axle support;

said rearward end of said second lower control rod being pivotally secured to said second axle support;

an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

1 and a stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely extending
base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end portions
at the opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

5 said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control rods,
respectively;

10 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control rods;

15 said first generally forwardly extending end portion of said stabilizer bar assembly
extending outwardly from said first axle support, thence forwardly, thence
inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly towards said first mounting bracket
and wherein said second generally forwardly extending end portion of said
stabilizer bar assembly extends outwardly from said second axle support, thence
forwardly, thence inwardly and forwardly, and thence forwardly towards said
second mounting bracket;

20 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extending inwardly and forwardly from
its pivotal connection with said first axle support, thence inwardly, thence
outwardly and rearwardly to its pivotal connection with said second axle support.

Claim 9 (New): An axle suspension system for a load-bearing vehicle including
1 first and second longitudinally extending frame members having rearward and forward
ends, comprising:

first and second mounting brackets secured to said first and second frame members,
5 respectively;

a first lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its said
forward end to said first mounting bracket and extending rearwardly therefrom;

a second lower control arm, having forward and rearward ends, pivotally secured at its
said forward end to said second mounting bracket and extending rearwardly
10 therefrom;

first and second axle supports positioned rearwardly of said first and second mounting
brackets, respectively;

said rearward end of said first lower control rod being pivotally secured to said first axle
15 support;

said rearward end of said second lower control rod being pivotally secured to said
second axle support;

an axle and wheel assembly operatively secured to said first and second axle supports;

20 first and second air springs operatively secured to said axle and wheel assembly;

and a stabilizer bar assembly including an elongated, generally transversely extending
base portion having first and second generally forwardly extending end portions
at the opposite ends thereof;

said end portions having forward ends;

1 said first and second forwardly extending end portions of said stabilizer bar assembly
being pivotally connected at their said forward ends to said first and second
mounting brackets, respectively, above said first and second lower control rods,
respectively;

5 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly being pivotally connected to said first
and second axle supports above said first and second lower control rods;

10 said base portion of said stabilizer bar assembly extending inwardly and forwardly from
its pivotal connection with said first axle support, thence inwardly, thence
outwardly and rearwardly to its pivotal connection with said second axle support.